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19. (Amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein the carboxylic acid hydroxamide derivative exhibits a collagenase-3 IC₅₀ of greater than about 20 nM, said collagenase-3 IC₅₀ measured by a recombinant collagenase-3 assay.

20. (Amended) The method according to claim 19, wherein the carboxylic acid hydroxamide derivative exhibits a TACE IC₅₀ of less than about 40 μM, said TACE IC₅₀ measured by a TACE whole blood assay.

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE - DO NOT ENTER

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-15 and 21-23, without prejudice.

Please amend claims 16 and 18-20 pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, as follows:

16. (Thrice amended) A method for treating a medical condition of the type that is characterized by the destruction of articular cartilage; wherein said medical condition comprises joint injury, reactive arthritis, acute pyrophosphate arthritis (pseudogout), psoriatic arthritis, osteoarthritis or juvenile rheumatoid arthritis; in a mammalian subject, which method comprises administering to the subject having said condition a therapeutically effective amount of a [small molecule] carboxylic acid hydroxamide derivative having a molecular weight of under 2000 grams/mole, wherein the [small molecule] carboxylic acid hydroxamide derivative exhibits an aggrecanase IC₅₀ of less than about 20 nM, said aggrecanase IC₅₀ measured by an aggrecanase chondrocyte assay.

18. (Amended) The method according to claim 16, wherein the [small molecule] carboxylic acid hydroxamide derivative exhibits a collagenase-1 IC₅₀ of greater than about 200 nM, said collagenase-1 IC₅₀ measured by a recombinant collagenase-1 assay.

19. (Amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein the [small molecule] carboxylic acid hydroxamide derivative exhibits a collagenase-3 IC₅₀ of greater than about 20 nM, said collagenase-3 IC₅₀ measured by a recombinant collagenase-3 assay.

20. (Amended) The method according to claim 19, wherein the [small molecule] carboxylic acid hydroxamide derivative exhibits a TACE IC₅₀ of less than about 40 μM, said TACE IC₅₀ measured by a TACE whole blood assay.

REMARKS

Reconsideration, entry of this amendment and allowance of the above application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-23 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicants have formally canceled claims 1-15 and 21-23, and amended claims 16 and 18-20 in order to